1368. b. 21. 4

A

LETTER

FROM

Obadiah Shepherd

TO

Doctor. Zealwag.

I remember another Scrap of my vain Learning when I was a Boy.

Clodius accuſat Mæchos.

IN ENGLISH

Methinks thou art very Black, quo the Devil to the Collier.

BAGDAD: Printed by CUTTI MAMMI, Printer to the Hon. Lord ALCOCK.

Cum Privilegio.

Friend ZEALWAG!

AS We were Loitering Yesterday evening, about ye center of ye City, in expectation of ye Post's Arrival from Babylon, We were diverted by a Cry of News Boys, whom we observed with Papers in their Hands, Intit'led, A Letter from a OBADIAH SHEPHERD, to ALEXANDER the Copper-Smith. I was a little surpriz'd, and somewhat moved in Spirit, to find my Name made use of, without my knowlege; but notwithstanding, was Silent, when one of the Company, more curious than the rest, propos'd purchasing one of the Papers; and we slept over, by consent, into St. HERBERTS to peruse it. After it had been read thro'; several of the Company Humourously asked me, how long since I had turn'd Author; to which, I made no other reply, for a great while, but that it was necessary, now & then to advise my Flock; but the whole Company knowing my incapacity in such matters, and that my knowlege, extended no further, than in discovering the goodness, or badness, of the out-side of my flock, set up a most exceeding Laugh-

ter againſt me, and Sr. RICHARD SENSIBLE, ſo remarkable for his great Wiſdom, and diſcoveries, in the Art of Prying, moſt critically convinced the company of the great advantage of his curioſity; for he aſſured OBADIAH, that all ye Inhabitants of Bagdad were greatly offended at his mentioning 'Political Obſervations, flowing from ye Fatt-headed 'Sages of that City. Sr. RICHARD ſtrenuouſly inſiſted, that they were indecent expreſſions, unfit to proceed from the mouth of goodly OBADIAH, or as cunning TOM VELVET elſewhere interlineally affirms, 'No ways becoming ye Pen 'of a Gentleman, but Harlequin's Speech 'on a Mountebank's Stage. The fear of offending my goodly fellow Citizens of Bagdad, for whom I profeſs the utmoſt regard, exceedingly moved my inward Man, inſomuch, that I was forthwith inſpir'd by a Prophefying Spirit, to pronounce unto them, that my friend Doctor ZEALWAG was the real Author of this Paper, aſſiſted by the deceitful head of TOM VELVET, and the worthleſs Hand of FENTO PUZZLEPATE, none of the Company ſuſpected

ſuſpected the latter to be ye Author, even of JACOBO HEWLETALDO. 'But 'this open Declaration of mine, at once 'ſtartled and ſtruck the minds of all my 'Auditors; & yea verily, Sir RICHARD 'himſelf, cou'd not forbear uttering ſome-'thing on the occaſion. How, ſays he? 'The Learned Dr. ZEALWAG, Son of 'my old worthy friend ROW. ZEAL-'WAG, a Mufti, turned Scribler; Oh! 'what a rueful thought it gives me, of the 'fickle changes of this uncertain World, 'How is the Holy Seed corrupted with 'earthly vanities: Surely, ſaid he, the 'Children of darkneſs, are crept in a-'mongſt us, to defile our ſanctifyed Habi-'tation, and to brand us with earthly in-'famy, and Scorn, but 'tis a juſt Obſer-'vation.

Quem Jupiter vult perdere prius dementat.

He that is born to deny his Hand muſt firſt turn Knave,

Oh! DOCTOR, DOCTOR, thy fame has often reached my Ears, and I have often heard of thy great Dexterity in thy Spiritual Declamations, againſt the Carnal

nal longings, after the Stew-Pans, and Flesh-Pots of Ægypt, and hankering after thy Neighbours Kettles. Yea verily, Doctor, thou so provokest my inward man that I cannot but reply to thee, in thy own Laconick Exclamation. Oh! Tempora, Oh! Mores. Oh! Doctor, Doctor--- Oh! ——I am grieved in Spirit.

And now thou art thus rebuked, I will tell thee Doctor, what thy old fellow Citizens of Bagdad say,

GLIBB Swore 'twas well for the Politick Doctor, he say'd so little of him in this Piece, and therefore, he wou'd only assure the Company, that he was nothing more, than a meere Quack in Divinity, a Quack in Law, and a Quack in Physick, and much better qualifyed for a Quack Mountebank-Speecher, as his Scribendi Cacoethes plainly demonstrates, than either himself, or WILLIAM SELOB, & wou'd vend a Lye with as good a grace as ỹ Lord he mentions, tho' not with half his witt, sense, or innocent good humour.

HUGH BALLAST tuck'd in his Cravet, and say'd, That since he has lost the Key of his Cellar, he has also lost the a-

greeable

greeable company of Doctor Zealwag, by which he humourouſly affirms, he has great reaſon to ſuſpect the Doctors friendſhip, and his honeſty, for the Doctor always liked a ſmack of his Claret, and greatly fears, he has waggiſhly conveyed away his Key, to have a falſe one made by it, which when he has effected, he doubts not but his Key, by the ſame waggiſh artifice, will be reſtored.

ABRAHAM BLACK was there, and ſwore that wou'd not do, for unleſs Hugh wou'd take the like method to be reſtored his Key, as the Doctor did his loſt Sheep, he wou'd looſe it in Æternum, for him, and who ſo fit, ſays he, to levy it upon, as the Prieſt of the Pariſh, when the Laws are ſo ſtrong in our favour, for that purpoſe? and why ſhou'd we ſpare them, who have not ſpared one another?

WILL. HILLTOWN, who was in the Ring, after his uſual Gibing manner, with his wonted Grimace, told us, we were very arch upon the Waggiſh Doctor, but aſſured us the Moidor was ſent home, or verily

verily Gentlemen, says he, I beleive he wou'd have lost his whole flock.

ROBIN BLUSTER, first president of ye County of Bagdad, said, That he woud throw by his Dray-Man's whip, whenever he met him, and leave him intirely to his second President, & as he understands Greek very well, can as well as the Doctor cry out εὕρηκα εὕρηκα I have found him, I have found him. I can trace him thro' every Scene of his iniquity, I have discovered him Supporting, Aiding, and Councelling a Grand Impostor, in his wicked endeavours to Establish a forged Testament, and not only solliciting the succes's of this forgerer's vexatious Suit, but acting, Ex mero Officio, in a Judicial Capacity as one of the Bashaws of the County of Bagdad, no way agreeable to his Commission, and intirely out of his Jurisdiction, when the decision of the Contest was to be made, in the Grand Spiritual Court at Babylon, ὤφθηκα ὤφθηκα says WILL, the second President, I have seen him, I have seen him, I have perceived him, attempting

to

to Superſede me, and ſecretly, and clandeſtinely, turn me out of the poſſeſſion and Stewardſhip of my little Mannor. I have traced his Epiſtles to the Grand Baſhaw, from whom I have the Tenure of it, and to his Secretary at Babylon, repreſenting me capable of the utmoſt Villainy, and Corruption, in my Employment: an abſolute deſpotick Tyrant, in this Petty Government, rendring me wholy diſqualifyed for my Office, and naturally diſpoſed to cruelty, and oppreſſion; and greatly inclined to ruin and deſtroy the Inhabitants of the Mannor. I have ſeen him charged with this ſecret Back-biting, with this treacherous wounding; and tho' the Epiſtles are yet in exiſtence, I have ſeen him deny the charge in the moſt ſolemn, and ſacred manner, with as much confidence, as if he had really been innocent, aſſuring me at the ſame time, that he was ſo far from doing an act of this kind, that he wou'd not only give me the utmoſt ſatisfaction I cou'd expect, or require; but wou'd give me recomendatory Epiſtles, to the grand Baſhaw, and his Secratary, to

Eſtabliſh me in my Stewardſhip, he had before endeavoured to ſupplant me in. This Gentleman concluded, BLUSTER is the Man, who handles our Characters, after this manner, 'With the ſole View 'of ſcreening his own, in the Croud.

'My good Friend JONAS PILLAR 'who hitherto ſtood ſilent behind a peace-'full Paunch, at length broke out, and in 'thy own Words ſaid, Yea, Verily, Doc-'tor, thy heart doth abound with too 'much Gall, and bitterneſs & the words 'of thy Mouth are very unſavoury, and 'too viſibly betray the inſincerity, and 'deceit of thy goodly countenance, 'Thou art fallen away from the Truth, 'and thou art a diſgrace to the Holy 'Mufti's. 6

WILL SUGARCANE aſſured us, the Liquoriſh Doctor ſhou'd never more viſit his Sugar Pots, but ſhou'd lick his Lips in vain at his Veſſels; for the carnal Man ſhews too viſibly in his leering eyes, and that he who cou'd ſo feelingly talk of impregnating my Pious Damſel SARAH, would not ſcruple to Pollute all my ſanc-tify'd Veſſells.

We

We all joined with the Doctor; That Sr. WILLIAM STEEPLE, was sincere in all his Professions, and more particularly, in that of his Religion, which he most justly observed, was above the Scene of trifling, and Ridicule, and believed, tho' Sr. WILLIAM dyes, he shall dye with an unblemished Character, of Sincerity and truth. Oh! Doctor, Doctor, How happy were it coud we say so of thee.

The Doctor's Love and opinion of himself, we observed must have been exceeding great, in preferring his humour, and temper, to the tall Reverend Gentleman whom Sr. RICHARD SENSIBLE told him, was Sr. WILLIAM's Trumpeter, whose great Character, and awful presence, puts him in such a superiour Light, that we coud not admit a comparison.— SIMON SPIRIT assured us, it was never in his mind to recant from his former expressions of thee, and verily Doctor, says he, thou hast put a lying Spirit into my mouth, which greatly exceeds that of Wm. SELOB Oh! impious wretch, continues SIMON, does he think I can plaister up his lacerated Character. How I abominate the unsavoury stench of

his

his filthy Wounds, neither have I any joy in the foul exultations of his evil Spirit; he may apply medicines, but apply and quack himself in vain; for his wounds are corrupt and putrify'd, and yea verily, I believe, they are become incurable, and to shew ỳ I have a Scrap of Latin as well as thee.

Immedicabile vulnus ense rescedendum est.

Thou hast no Remedy left but a sharp Knife, to cut out the Rotten Flesh of thy polluted Carkass.

I never did hear friend ZEALWAG did delight in being innocently cheerful in Conversation, and I find by an inward emotion that he wears the same Bib he did, when the evil Spirit prompted him groundlessly to expose me, in Publick, and the whole Sect of Caraites thro' my sides; but I will send home to him, the lying words he has charged upon me; And my Friend SIMON was proceeding to some serious *Expostulations*, when the ludicrous JACK BUCKALL, interrupted him, and said, the Earthly Tabernacle of this ZEALWAG, was very dirty, and very much wanted a good BROOM to sweep it clean; and he had a great mind to be free with the

Doctor,

when SAM SLASHER ſtept in, with a merry Joak and told us: he was indeed a very dirty fellow, in palming his ſmutty joaks which he was ſo remarkable for, on him; but that the very identick BROOM, which ſwept him laſt, has very lately been brought to town, and is actually within a few paces of Bagdad, in very good order, and very little worn; notwithſtanding it has ever ſince been in conſtant uſe; Upon which, the whole Company agreed, that as ſoon as he was throughly cleanſed, if he will take the Name of BUCKALL he being an adept in ſmutty joaks, ſhall be Chaplain extraordinary, to the band of BUCKALLS, under the Command of the Hon. Lord ALCOCK; and TOMMY VELVET, upon the like Terms ſhall be his journeyman. But as TOM has never yet been cleanſed, the Lord INCHIGEELY aſſured us, he muſt be well ſcrubbed, and that within the Precincts of his Mannor, there were courſe materials for that purpoſe, & that himſelf 'wou'd exer-'ciſe the Arm of Fleſh upon his carnal Man, 'and humble that vain conceited Spirit.

JAMES RAM greatly approved of this project, which he ſaid, wou'd give him an oppor-

opportunity to Butt, and try whose B——— head was hardest: But as for VELVET, he wou'd not undertake him that way, nor venture to attack his Noddle, with any thing but his Halbert.

'These merry Lads gave some alloy to 'the serious and grave conflicts that preced-'ed, and put the whole Company upon a 'merry Pin, when Mr. RESENTMENT 'came in, with his Jack Boots, and Leathern 'Girdle about his Loyns' And hearing the Cry against Dr. ZEALWAG fortifyed with his own innocence, he said he despised his Joaks on him, and as he knew he had never run any unwarrantable lengths to serve the Lord ALCOCK, so he feared no malicious or ill natured reflections. The humorous Joke of Councellor GLIBB's, of Lord ALCOCK's riding to Heaven upon a single Father, did not in the least move his Resentment.

The FAT Mufti sweating under a warm Vestment, stood opposite Seignior NAPTHALI, whom he merrily ridiculed for Cramming him with Sweet-Meats at the Suit of Lord ALCOCK, in expectation of his Vote, and his Holiness walking off with

a Paunch full of Sugar-Plums, he had not paid for. But assured the Company he gave Doctor ZEALWAG no Authority for making use of the Veteran Proverb he mentions; for he knew the Doctor was too Waggish to be allowed such a Licence, and did not doubt but his ill natured Gibes wou'd not have scrupled, instead of an homebred Cock-Sparrow, to have made an Exotick singing-bird, of his Holiness.

Seignior PIOASINO intirely agreed with the Doctor, in thinking himself, bound by the Rules of the Holy Alcoran to pity the ignorant, and to help the weak; and in truth Doctor, says he, thou standest in need of my greatest pity, and requirest my utmost Assistance; surely Doctor, you who have been so free with other Peoples Characters, whom you don't know, have preserved a most unblemished one of your own. The title you have been pleased to dignify me with, is what I am extremely obliged to you for; and to be sure you did it with the utmost sincerity and regard, and for the sake only of our Holy Religion. But your making me an honest Man, where I have no Temptation to be a Rogue, is still what doubly

doubly encreaſes the Obligation: but ſurely that too, proceeds from your ſtrict love and adhærence to the Law of the great Prophet, and not from the rancourous Spirit of hatred, malice, and revenge. Report ſays, you are the Author, but a Libel which contains ſo many falſe and malicious Aſperſions upon your goodly Fellow-Citizens of Bagdad; you (an holy Mufti ordained to Declaim againſt Backbitings, revilings, ſlanderings, &c. and with all your Rhetorick to comment upon the three great Virtues of Faith, hope, and Charity, and particularly, upon the latter which our Holy Alcoran teaches us, is the greateſt of the three) ſurely cou'd have no hand in: And therefore, for your great regard to Religion, and good will to Lord ALCOCK, till I am further convinced, I muſt ſpare you.

Little ROBIN ſat on his left hand ſnug as he did behind the Cuſhion; but utterly denys his leering on both ſides for he can not like ZEALWAG carry two Faces, he acknowleges he frequently ſmiled alternately on the arguments of both ſides the Queſtion, particularly on the Reciprocal reproaches between him & Councellor GLIB, which

which he ſuppoſed the Doctor from his own corrupt imagination, calls leering on both ſides. He ſays, he is very ſenſible of what obligations he owes to Sir Wm, and his Friends: but poſitively affirms, he wou'd never have continued little ROBIN in the Wood, ſhooting Black birds, but for him; or that he brought him into the Senate: But that he owes it chiefly to his good allies, the great and formidable body of ye BALLASTS. That HUGH BALLAST put him in Nomination, & ye all his Friends of that Name, wherever they were Scattered, gathered themſelves together, & came from all Parts of the Kingdom, to aſſiſt him: And that his Introduction into ye Senate, was owing to that great aggregate body, to which he always ſo firmly adhæred, and not to the Intereſt of any particular Perſon whatever.

WILL. the Country Squire, was very Sollicitous for a proper rebuke for PENTO PUZZLEPATE, and indeed the whole Company were at a great loſs, for they concluded, that neither a Dray-man's whip, or Heazle Cudgell, a Fools Cap upon his head, or Bells about his Neck, wou'd have

the least effect upon him. Upon which FRANK HEADLONG and DANIEL POSITIVE, desired the management of that scull may be intirely left to them, for that they had already contrived a proper Machine for his Correction, which they told us was the very Roll he so vainly brandished in Court to no purpose, and which they had sent to repleniſh ye Cavity of with Lead, a proper Emblem of his ponderous Noddle: and they assured us, they wou'd frequently exercise it over him, for his profound taciturnity to Sr. WILLIAM's cause during ye whole Election. For, says FRANK he shou'd have sputter'd, and stammer'd, & endeavoured to have said something, tho' we all agree he knew not what.

SLENDER assured us, that the Doctor had most unjustly, and disingenuously, with the greatest partiality, and void of all Candour or Humanity, misstated his Case; But that he did not much wonder at that, since it is what the Doctor was always addicted to from his first knowlege of him: If because I am of opinion, says he, that our Holy Religion ought not; OBTORTO COLLO TRAHENDA, to be haled in head and

shoul-

ſhoulders, upon every Temporal diſpute, I muſt be diveſted by ZEALWAG, and VELVET, of all Vertue, Modeſty, and Religion, & accounted ye moſt abandon'd wretch in the World; 'twere far better for me, I never had been in it.

But beware Gentlemen, of that ſame Doctor ZEALWAG, for tho' he has given himſelf ſuch a Character in OBADIAH's Letter, of wearing his Bib as clean from reflections as any of his Tribe (which is the firſt time I ever heard he did ſo) yet I tell you, Gentlemen he was the firſt of his Tribe who gave me an ill opinion of the Perſons of the ſacred Mufti's, whoſe Function, notwithſtanding what that rotten hearted malicious Doctor atheiſtically ſays of me, with all becoming Humility, I revere, and whoſe holy order, I not only admire, but adore. 'Till I knew ZEALWAG, I thought there was no ſuch thing as an evil Mufti; but how greatly was I deceived; for early in my Juvenile days, I well remember this Eccleſiaſtical rebell flew in the face of his Maſter, the Grand Mufti, and Publiſhed a moſt ſcandalous,

falſe

falſe and malicious Libell againſt him, which being accuſed of by his Highneſs, he did in the moſt ſolemn and ſacred Terms aſſure his Grandeur, he was intirely ignorant and innocent of the fact laid to his charge, and that he was ready to give his Highneſs any Teſt, of his innocence, even to the kiſſing the Holy Alcoran, or the ſacrificing his ſacerdotal orders, on which the pious Grand Mufti, full of Primitive innocence believing the ſincerity of his allegation, and unuſed to deceits of this kind, moſt generouſly, & unſuſpectedly acquitted him; but unluckily as the Doctor was walking from his Highneſs's preſence, he dropp'd a paper which one of the Company took up, and after the Doctor was intirely gone, deliver'd it to his Highneſs, who upon Examination, diſcovered it to be the original of that very Libell he had juſt before, ſo ſolemnly & ſacredly diſown'd, corrected and amended with his own hand, by making it more bitter and ſevere againſt the Grand Mufti, his Patron, and benefactor, than before it had been.

You ſee how he wounds me thro' the

ſides

ſides of my Friend ROSSELLO, in plan-ning a Diſpute between us, which never happened, and how injurioufly, and uncharitably, he rakes up the Aſhes of the Dead; which ſhews his corrupt rancour, ſuperiour to any Mans, when it does not reſt in it's purſuits even to the Grave. Is not he a diſgrace to the origine from whence he derives his Head? and a ſcandal to the Religion he profeſſes, and ought to Teach? and when he inſinuates that I am void of Vertue modeſty and religion, vile baſe, &c. May I not moſt juſtly reply to him, Quid rides? de te fabula narratur. Why do you Sneer? you are the Man. Quocunque modo rem. Is a Motto he falſely Suggeſts, our old Maſter left us, but were he in being, he wou'd let him know, it more aptly belongs to a Man expert in proper Applications, for Concordatum mony, & in ỹ dextrous method of pilling deſtitute Orphans.

The Ladies of the Grand Moſcho, abſolutely declare againſt hearing the advice of Doctor ZEALWAG, as their inſtructor, becauſe he Waggiſhly inſinuates, that if WILLIAM SELOB had not ſo unlucky

lucky an Hand in not being able to patch up what kettles he cracks, he ſhould have the benefit of Tinkering all the Kettles in their Cloyſter, worn out with Ruſt for want of uſe, & which, the Doctor ſays, ſtand in great need of an Operator to reſtore their Emaciated Bodys.

Seignior BROCALLO Staggered into the ring, and with a fluſtered Viſage cryed out who is this Doctor WAGTAIL or ZEALWAG? that he thus conſummately dares to take this freedom with me. All that know BROCALDO, know that he will quench his daily Thirſt, (but at his own expence,) whenever his Aridated Body requires a moiſtning Supply.

'Twoud much better become the Doctor to employ his Time in ſearching the Fathers for other Similes in his Eccleſiaſtical Declamations, than his truly arched Building, which tho' confirmed and made ſtronger, by a greater weight, has been ſo continually trampled upon, that 'twill be quite worn thro' at laſt. And with pleaſure I wou'd have furniſhed him out of

my

my curious Collection. As for VELVET he is ſo ſufficiently ſtored by his late purchaſe, that he thinks now he has little elſe to do, than to run up and down, villifying and aſperſing the characters of the goodly Citizens of Bagdad. Let him who is full as remarkable for his Prying as Sr. RICHARD SENSIBLE, ſtay at home dandling his infants, and ſolacing his Rib; a fitter employment to take up his idle time. I am learned, and can utter good ſenſe Elaborate Eloquence and Smooth oratory with any of them. Tho' I can't deceive a ſuperior Mufti in three fourths of a valuable Benefice. I—— and juſt as Seignior BROCALDO was proceeding in his Merits; in came a Letter from Doctor ZEALWAG, in anſwer to Seignior PIOASINO. wherein we were pleaſed, you had ſo fully acquitted your ſelf of ſuch a dirty piece of Work, and charged it ſo plainly upon the inſolence of Wm. SELOB. But however Seignior PIOASINO took great Notice of the Smartneſs of your anſwer. I ſays he, Summon'd up all my good Manners & Civility to the Doctor, in acquainting

him

him he was the reputed author of OBADIAH's Epiſtle, and he has return'd me this anſwer. I ſhall now read both to you.

Seignior PIOASINO's Letter to Doctor ZEALWAG.

Sir.

WITHIN this day or two an abuſive Paper has been publiſhed here, intitled a Letter from OBADIAH SHEPHERD to ALEXANDER the Copper-Smith; perhaps you have not yet heard, that report ſays you are the Author, which I cannot be brought to believe, becauſe it ſo ill ſuits the Character, of a good Clergyman: A Pamphlet which ſhews ſo much deliberate Malice, and contrivance, to Rob ſeveral honeſt Citizens of their reputation, (in which I am not forgotten) ſure you cou'd have no hand in. I hope however you'll not take it amiſs to have this Information from,

SIR,

Yours &c.

S. P.

Doctor

Doctor ZEALWAG's Answer.

Sir.

I am surprized with a Letter I received just now from you, and I think I have much more reason to believe you the Author of the first Libell, wherein I am grosly abused, than you can have to suspect me for this. I assure you I have other business in my Country retirement, than to herd in with your City scandall's, I am told that one Wm. BOLES is the author of all this scene of reflection, and if I had not been told so with some assurance, I shou'd have believed you to be the author of that Libell under the name of ALEXANDER the Copper-Smith, because no Man in the Court treated me so scurrilously as you did. But I desire you to believe I despise your reflections, or any other methods of throwing your scandals upon me, who am in any other respect

Your Humble Servant.

D. Z.

P. S. I beleive he who was the author of the first was author of the rest, & that this last was published by way of apology. to the former.

We had ſcarce time to make any remarks upon this ingenious Epiſtle, which indeed ſpoke for it ſelf, when we were interrupted with another Epiſtle from TOMMY VELVET to Seignior PIOASINO, in anſwer to one, he told us, he had juſt before ſent him. This Anſwer we found ſo very obſcure & evaſive, as render'd it almoſt unintelligible, which Seignior PIOASINO obſerving, drew the Copy of his own Epiſtle out of his Pocket, which he read as follows.

Seignior PIOASINO, to TOMMY VELVET.

SIR,

AMONG the many Libells of late publiſhed here, there's one of Superiour rancour to the reſt, call'd a Letter from OBADIAH SHEPHERD to ALEXANDER the Copper-Smith, and yet ſome People, who wou'd throw an Aſperſion upon the Clergy, inſinuate that you have aſſiſted in it, you are one of the laſt who wou'd bring a ſcandal upon the ſacred order, and therefore you can

free

free your ſelf from this imputation, by a few Lines to Sir

Your Humble Servant
S. P.

TOM. VELVET's Anſwer.

SIR,

WHEN I am able to diſcover by the air of yours, that it is writt with a regard to my Station, and Character, when alſo I am told what thoſe aſſiſtances are, it will be time enough to give you a particular Anſwer. In the mean time give me leave to tell you, I have Spirit enough to deſpiſe the inſinuations of thoſe who rejoyce at the misfortunes of the Clergy.

Whether your expreſſion, " You are one " of the laſt who wou'd bring ſcandall upon " the ſacred Order " is ſerious or otherwiſe I will not ſay, let me take it in this ſenſe, that you have a vaſt Regard for the Divine Miſſion, and then I am glad to have it in my power to vindicate your reputation, againſt thoſe who wou'd more than inſinuate the contrary,

I am Sir,
Your Humble Servant
T. V.

About this time, JEMMY RAM with SAM SLASHER returned from the Press, where they had been in search of truth; and SLENDER followed them, with his Fingers Bloody crying out εὕρηκα εὕρηκα I have found them, I have found them, I can trace them thro' every Paragraph of their irreligious Gibes. The whole Company were alarmed at this sudden Exclamation; but our amazement soon ceased, when they told us the great terrour RAM had put the Boy in at the Press, by attempting to deprive him of his Ears, on the refusal of his discovery, insomuch, that he was obliged to throw himself into the Protection of SLENDER. and the political design he had of getting out of their Clutches by it: For as soon as SLENDER had received him into his Protection, and was conveying him to another apartment, in hopes to receive satisfactory information, away flyes MERCURY swift as an Arrow, and in a Twinkling whisk'd poor SLENDER Three pair of Stairs after him, however he did not quitt his hold, and the poor Lad's Garments being somewhat antique, left his Skirts in his hands and made his escape.

After

After this dejected Son of the prophets who lay sprawling at the Foot of the Stairs, had been gently raised, and like a Water-Dog shook off the Dirt he had gathered in his Rotation he began to recover and finding two tatter'd Skirts, within his Hands as an earnest of his intended vengeance to the owner, resolved they shou'd never offend him more, and as he was just going to throw them into the flames, hearing the rattling of Paper, he withheld his Arm, and searching the Pockets of this remnant, he there found the very Original Manuscript of the Letter from OBADIAH SHEPHERD to ALEXANDER the Copper-Smith, and discover'd it to be all of the Hand Writing of Doctor ZEALWAG, except some alterations and amendments, which were promiscuously made in the hand writing of TOMMY VELVET and FENTO PUZZLEPATE.

This surprizing merry Scene greatly astonished the whole Company, and we sat down to compare and examine the Original strictly, with the Printed Letter we had before us.

We found that this learned Triumvirate were

were obliged to have recourſe to their Lexicon Manuale, to ſpell the word εὕρηκα and mark it with it's proper accents. The next remarkable alteration we obſerved was the words (make in becomming only the Stage of an Harlequin) which we found altered by TOM VELVET as it ſtands in the Print thus. 'No ways becomming the Pen 'of a Gentleman but Harlequins Speech on 'a Mountebanks ſtage' In our next progreſs we found the words accuſing falſe friend ZEALWAG alter'd as they now ſtand (in falſely accuſing friend ZEA LWAG, tho' we all agreed there was no need of this laſt alteration. After the word Coveteouſneſs, in the next line but one, we found the words (againſt both, which falſe accuſations the whole City of Bagdad Cry out) intirely razed out, for what reaſons we cou'd not take upon us to determine. The next, and indeed, conſidering the Author, the moſt remarkable obſervation of all happen'd, in the Character of Little ROBIN, who in the Manuſcript is made to betray his ſincere Friend; but this expreſſion is ſoften'd into, (Drop his friend) by the Emollient hand of Councellor FENTO PUZZLEPATE,

We found poor SLENDER, had been made

made a Skipp in the original with ſome addition we cou'd not pick out, which by the healing pen of the ſame Councellor was metamorphos'd as it now ſtands; which SLENDER took an opportunity before the company of returning him, his moſt profound thanks for.

We found nothing more remarkable except ſome amendment made in the Character of JEMMY RAM by the ſmooth ſliding pen of Gentle TOMMY VELVET.

But by the Advertiſement, we conjecture that the Hiſtory of the Caraites will ſoon be publiſh'd, becauſe the Manuſcript mentions it ready for the Preſs; but Councellor Fento in his amendment, ſays, 'tis only preparing.

After we had gone thro' this curious peice, the Company agreed to leave it in Hands of the abuſed Scribe, for the Curious or incredulous to have recourſe to.

Then TULLY ſtood up, with a Roman gravity becoming a ſenator, & ſaid, he cou'd not forbear his animadverſion, in comparing this wicked TRIUMVIRATE to that bloody one of Octavius, Anthony, and Lepidus, and that theſe, like thoſe Butchers, had

ſacrificed ſome of their beſt Friends and neareſt relations to gratifye their baſe ſpleen, cruel malice, and corrupt Revenge.

HARRY SMUGG ſaid he was no way jealous of Selobs Commendations nor aſhamed of Praiſes out of his Mouth, and that he choſe much rather to receive 'em even from ſuch a Perſon as he had made Wm. SELOB, than from ſuch an one as he had made himſelf.

GEORGE PURITAN whom hitherto a ſilent Spirit had made us happy in, being no longer able to contain, broke out into this ſhort Expreſſion. Verily my friends I ſay, I wou'd rather venture the wife of my Boſom with Wm. Selob himſelf, than with theſe ſlyé wicked ones. And ran home.

After which the Lord ALCOCK aroſe and ſaid.

Honeſt Doctor, you once had loſt the Key of your Steeple-houſe, that great attractive of your unbounded Hoſpitality and chief cauſe of your Door being open to your friends and your Heart much more ſo. You then had no right to that generous Motto you have given your ſelf. Ut patet Janua cor magis, nor

will

will I pretend to say, you have aquir'd it since: you have now noDoor, but aDoor of Scandalous reflection and Destruction to receive me in. and that, I beleive like the Courts of Justice, tho' for different reasons were never closed.

Noctes atque dies patet atri Janua ditis.

I have often observed an intire Stagnation in your litigated suits, and have endeavourd to revive your interest and Credit in my mannor. My Bank and Cellar——————————were at your Command without the Cautious Condition of good and sufficient——I did not then recollect my old friend Abrahams wife observation, never to part with a Guinea for one farthing less than three and Twenty Shillings, and now you are confirmed in your Steeple-house, and think of serving your self and retrieving your late expences at Court,——By the By Doctor, you have returned me very bad Coin in the Change of my Money.

'As to the Independant Band of Janizaries which I have the honour to Command' There being more than a prospect of a

compleat Victory, or a ſpeedy honourable Peace, I am under a neceſſity of disbanding my Cohorts, for which reaſon I muſt recall all my Commiſſions granted to the name of BUCKALL, but ſaid he to JEMMY RAM as thou haſt been a faithful Servant, & haſt Villainouſly & moſt untruely been repreſented to be a back door relation to the family of the BUCKALL's, and to compenſate for the loſs of your Halbert, I will make you Monitor in chief to the whole Family of FENTO PUZZLEPATES.

Honeſt JACK BUCKALL, I will provide a RIB for you, and inſtead of carrying the Enſign of the Horſe Tail, you ſhall make uſe of your own. And my Friend SAM SLASHER if he will quitt the name of BUCKALL, & reaſſume his own and follow his Town employment (which will be very beneficiall) I will Eſtabliſh him an half pay Lieutenant, of the Band formerly under the Command of the Hon, Ld. ALCOCK. 'As for 'poor Wm. SELOB who I find is in great 'diſgrace and Trouble on my account, & 'in as much as he is by the Mother's ſide 'a deſcendant of the Family of the BUCK-

all's'

ALL's, and for his good will towards me, has been moſt injurouſly & ignominiouſly turn'd out by his Maſter, I will at my own expence provide him all materialls & neceſſary implements for his Trade, and ſett him up a compleat maſter workman, and in recompence of the Shoulder knott I formerly dignifyed him with, 'tis my pleaſure that now he be diſtinguiſh'd by the Style and Title, of Copper-Smith in chief to the Hon. Lord Lord ALCOCK, whereby he may get a little bread.

SLENDER my faithfull Scribe, as you have ſuffer'd moſt malicious indignities and falſe aſperſions, for being retained in my ſervice, I can never make you ſufficient recompenſe equal to your unjuſt Sufferings, but to ſhew you my natural diſpoſition to do all in my Power to redreſs the injured, & as an earneſt of my future inclinations and ſervices, I now appoint you Inſtructor & Caſtigator general to the two renown'd Familys of the ZEALWAG's and VELVET's, but under this Expreſs Condition, that you do not preſume to exerciſe your power in any

any other but theſe two Family's without my ſpecial Licence & Authority for theſe being exceeding long tail'd Family's, will require all your care and diligence, and you will have no time on your hands for the inſtruction of others, and my regard for theſe are ſo great, that I will not by any means have them neglected.

ROSSELLO tho' I am not under a neceſſity of providing for him yet for his good Character which SLENDER generouſly aſſures me is out of the reach of human power to deny, I'l recommend him to my friend Sir WILLIAM STEEPLE to procure him a Patent for Preſident generall of Bagdad, on all Elections for Cailiff of that City, in which he ſhall have a particular clauſe to Superſede all future Preſidents for the time being during ſuch Election, who ſhall preſume to act in that ſtation. And in caſe of his abſence the little liſping Gentleman at his left hand ſhall Officiate.

And now Gentlemen you may diſband all the private Soldiers under my command as ſoon as you pleaſe.

And juſt as the Company were going

to

to break up, we were prevented by a Petition from FENTO PUZZLEPATE, acknowleging his crime and begging for Mercy, confeſſing that he was led into this ſhameful Confuſion, as moſt Malefactors are, by keeping bad Company, upon which we agreed, that as we had Condemn'd and Hang'd, Two principal Rogues, and that FENTO PUZZLEPATE in reality appeared to be no more than an accerſary, he out of our great mercy and Compaſſion, ſhou'd be Tranſported. Poor good natur'd HOSIER indeed pity'd him and ſaid, 'he would 'equip him with a pair of Stockings for 'ſuch an expedition, and was of opinion 'the laſt old Coat he turned would fit ſuch 'a Vagabond very well, And then the 'Company broke up. By this thou ſeeſt 'Doctor what thy Luxuriant Imagination 'has produced in this baneful triumviral enterprize. and I ſhall now conclude in thy own Words, firſt perfixing this Motto,

Spectatur mantica tergo.

'He who attempts to expoſe vice, 'ought firſt to look within himſelf, and

ſee

'ſee how free he is from thoſe Blemiſhes,
'he ſo invidiouſly endeavours to diſcover
'in others' and whenever thou attempteſt to expoſe the Characters of other Men they will think it the utmoſt juſtice to return it to thee according to thy own Motto.

Nec lex eſt juſtior ulla
Quam necis artifices arte perire ſua,

I am thy Friend

OBADIAH SHEPAERD.

Advertiſement.

JUST Preparing for the Preſs, a Letter from FENTO PUZZLEPATE, to ALEXANDER the Copper Smith, with a Dedication to the Ingenious and Learned HARRY NONESUCH Hiſtoriographer to the Hon. Lord ALCOCK, with this Motto,

Nocte vigilas luce dormis.
Litera Scripta manet.